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FARM ELECTRICITY REPORT

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE April 3, 1958

**Farmers Spend More for Electricity at Slightly Lower
Average Cost per Kilowatt Hour**

Greater use of electricity by farmers increased their average monthly bill to a new high of \$10.50 in July 1957, according to the annual survey made last year by the Crop Reporting Board. This survey covered more than 20,000 farmers throughout the United States.

The July 1957 bill averaged 1 percent higher than in 1956. Compared with the 1947-49 average, the 1957 bill represents an increase of 71 percent. The largest increases occurred in the Middle Atlantic States, up 8 percent from the previous year; and in New England with an increase of 6 percent. All other areas averaged above 1956, except the East South Central States, where 1957 bills averaged the same as in 1956, and in the Pacific States where a 5 percent reduction occurred.

Greater usage of electricity for both farm production and family living increased kilowatt hour consumption per farm 2 percent above 1956 and 112 percent above the 1947-49 average. The Pacific Coast States used 10 percent less kilowatt hours per farm than in 1956, yet they made the largest increase (175 percent) of any area from 1947-49. The largest annual increase in consumption was in the Middle Atlantic States which averaged 8 percent above 1956.

Most power companies and cooperatives have graduated rate schedules which provide lower rates per kilowatt hour as consumption increases. With increased consumption this type of rate structure made possible the slight decrease from 1956 in the average cost per kilowatt hour. In some areas, however, general increases in the rate schedule offset or more than offset the reduction in cost per kilowatt hour resulting from increased consumption. Many farmers have already reached the point in the consumption bracket where they obtain the lowest rate per kilowatt hour. A combination of the above factors limited the decline in average cost per kilowatt hour to 0.02 cents (nearly 1 percent) below 1956, although consumption was up 2 percent. Compared with 1947-49, the 1957 average cost per kilowatt hour for electricity consumed on farms was down 19 percent. Per kilowatt hour costs were the lowest on the Pacific Coast and in East South Central States, at 1.9 and 2.1 cents.

U. S. D E P A R T M E N T O F A G R I C U L T U R E	
Agricultural Marketing Service	Crop Reporting Board
SpSy 1 (4-58)	Washington, D. C.
Agriculture-Washington	

Kilowatt-hours used, average cost per kilowatt-hour, and
average monthly bill per farm by regions 1/

Regions	Kwh. used per farm			Av. cost per kwh.			Av. monthly bill		
	Av.	1956	1957	Av.	1956	1957	Av.	1956	1957
	1947-49			1947-49			1947-49		
				Cents	Cents	Cents	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
N. Eng.	243	390	415	3.2	2.8	2.8	7.67	10.90	11.60
M. Atl.	288	505	545	2.7	2.3	2.3	7.82	11.60	12.50
E. N. C.	227	440	465	3.2	2.7	2.6	7.22	11.90	12.10
W. N. C.	166	345	360	4.2	3.4	3.3	6.93	11.70	11.90
S. Atl.	131	325	330	3.5	2.4	2.5	4.53	7.80	8.20
E. S. C.	125	295	310	3.3	2.2	2.1	4.08	6.50	6.50
W. S. C.	106	240	250	4.5	3.2	3.1	4.74	7.70	7.80
Mount.	287	550	570	2.5	2.3	2.3	7.07	12.60	13.10
Pacific	442	1355	1215	1.7	1.8	1.9	7.70	24.40	23.10
U. S.	196	405	415	3.13	2.56	2.54	6.13	10.40	10.50

1/ The survey made in July and August requested data based on "last bill."
This was generally a bill for a period ending in last June, July, or early August.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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